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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

HENDRIKUS MARKUS VELTMAN, ET AL.

: EXAMINER: DASTOURI, MEHRDAD

SERIAL NO: 10/519,840

140. 10/312,040

FILED: JULY 1, 2005

: GROUP ART UNIT: 2621

FOR:

ENCODING DEVICE, ENCODING METHOD, DECODING DEVICE, AND DECODING METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.